

City's water ski team tops

By Donald K. Davies
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When Madison's Capital City Ski Team opens its eighth season of free water shows on Lake Monona Sunday, spectators should be aware that this is no run-of-the-mill water ski troupe.

This Madison team took first place

among the nine ski teams competing in the National Water Ski Show Tournament at Traxler Park in Janesville last August.

Because the show was sanctioned by the American Water Ski Assn. as the first national tournament, this made the city skiers the national champions.

Previously the team had won both state and regional contests last year,

duplicating a winning record that the Madison team had in 1972 — before a national contest was held.

A special Memorial Day show is scheduled at 7 p.m. Sunday and it will be presented at the same time Monday night. Both can be viewed from Law Park. No admission is charged, but the team accepts donations.

Water show fans will be able to watch

the team perform twice each week through the summer, in shows at 7 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, until Labor Day. It will also perform in two shows on July 4 on Lake Mendota at Warner Park lagoon.

The Capital City team organized 14 years ago but didn't start performing in public shows until 1967 when it organized shows on Lake Mendota. In 1968, the team moved to twice-a-week shows on Lake Monona and Law Park and in 1970 increased performances to three weekly. But in 1974 the energy crisis dictated a return to twice weekly performances, one member said.

Now the troupe has more than 50 members, 35 who are active and 25 who ski in the shows.

When the shows started in 1968, the team managed to squeeze 13 acts in a one-hour show. Now with smoother timing and organization, the more professional performances include 18 separate acts that move from kite flying to barefoot skiing to a group jump that includes up to six skiers.

In addition to the team efforts, the group has several outstanding individuals who consistently win top honors in state, regional, and now national tourneys in slalom, trick skiing and jumping.



Ski team performs acrobatics.